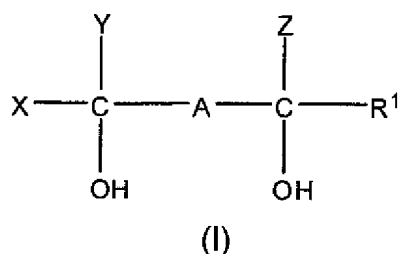


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

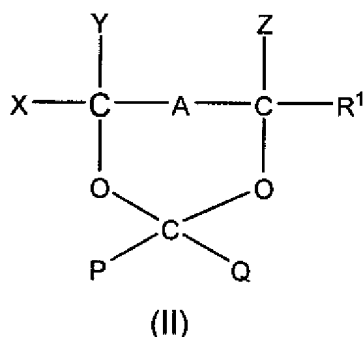
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended). A process for the preparation of a polymerizable composition comprising polymerizable monomer of formula I:



said process comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a compound of formula II



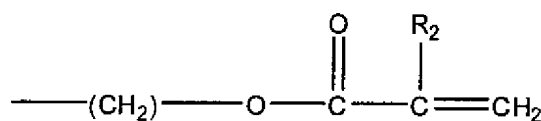
with an immobilized acid to thereby form a composition comprising the monomer of formula (I) and an acid by-product thereof,

wherein

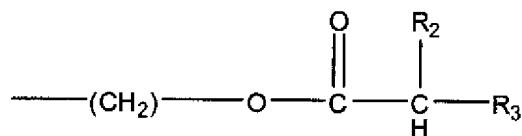
X, Y, Z, P, and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen,

A is $(\text{CH}_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1;

R¹ corresponds to either formula IIIA or formula IIIB



IIIA



IIIB

where R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl, and

and

R₃ is an unsaturated C₂₋₅ alkyl; and

(ii) neutralizing the composition of step (i) with an immobilized hydroxide, to thereby provide a composition comprising the monomer of formula I and a cross-linker.

2. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the immobilized acid is a strong acid.

3. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the acid is immobilized on an ion exchange resin.

4. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen.

5. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein R¹ corresponds to formula IIIA, and R₂ is CH₃.

6. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein X is H; Y is H, Z is H, n=0, R¹ corresponds to formula IIIA, and R₂ is CH₃.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein prior to said said contacting, the immobilized acid is contained, and after said contacting, passing a gas through the contained immobilized acid.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9 wherein the gas is air.

11. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 9 wherein the immobilized acid is contacted with the compound of formula II in the absence of an organic solvent.

12. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said contacting is performed in the presence of water.

13. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 9, wherein prior to said contacting, the immobilized acid is contained in a fluidized bed reactor.

14. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 9, further comprising after said passing step, extracting the gas from the contained immobilized acid.

15. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, further comprising, after said neutralizing, polymerizing the composition formed in step (ii), to thereby form a polymer.

16. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said acid by-product formed in step (i) is methacrylic acid.

17. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said acid by-product formed in step (i) is acrylic acid.

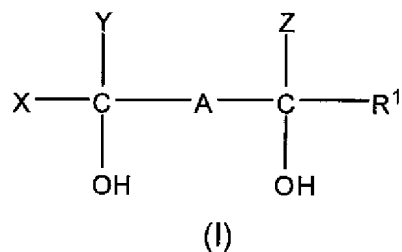
18. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 15, further comprising forming the polymer formed in said polymerizing step into an ocular device.

19. (Previously presented) A polymerizable monomer or composition formed by the process of claim 1.

20. (Previously presented) A polymer formed by the process of claim 15.

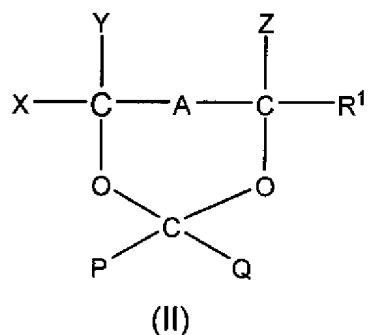
21. (Previously presented) An ocular device comprising the polymer formed by the process of claim 15.

22. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a polymerizable composition comprising a polymerizable monomer of formula I:



said process comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a compound of formula II

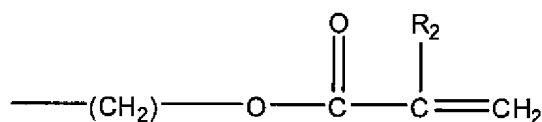


with an immobilized acid, having a pK_a of less than 3 to thereby form a composition comprising the monomer of formula (I) and an acid by-product thereof, wherein

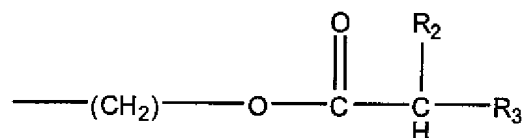
X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen,

Z, P, and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen, A is $(\text{CH}_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1;

R¹ corresponds to either formula IIIA or formula IIIB



IIIA



IIIB

where R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl, and

and

R₃ is an unsaturated C₂₋₅ alkyl; and

(ii) neutralizing the composition of step (i) with an immobilized hydroxide, to thereby provide a composition comprising the monomer of formula I and a cross-linker.

23. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, effective to form a composition comprising said monomer of formula (I) and about 0.50 percent or less of said cross-linker.

24. (Previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein said contacting results in formation of P-C(O)-Q, and said passing step is effective to remove said P-C(O)-Q from said composition.

25. (Previously presented) The process of claim 24, wherein said process is effective to provide essentially quantitative conversion of the compound of formula (II) to the monomer of formula (I).

26. (Previously presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the resulting polymer comprises 5% or less of a polymer formed by polymerization of said cross-linker.

27-28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The process of claim 3, wherein prior to said neutralizing, said immobilized acid is removed by filtration.

30. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the polymerizable monomer of formula (I) is glycerine methacrylate (GMA), the compound of formula (II) is 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl methyl methacrylate (GMAK), the acid by-product is methacrylic acid (MA), and the cross-linker is glycerol dimethacrylate.